

**Curriculum Director Report**  
**March 15, 2021**

**Capturing Kids Hearts**

Joy Sparks was here on March 8th and 9th to do her 2nd traction visit. She observed classrooms, talked to staff and students. She also met with each building's Process Champion Group. There were lots of positive things happening in all of our schools. The Capturing Kids Hearts is a process, and we still have work to do in this process. Each school left with a plan to work on things for the last few months of school. We are looking at some refresher options for staff, and options to train or ESP staff as well. The goal is to take our schools from being good to excellent.

**Remote Options for Next Year**

We are looking at remote learning options if ISBE requires us to offer remote options. As it stands now we will only have to offer it to students who are high risk, or live with someone that is high risk. We saw previews of 3 different on-line options where they would do the teaching and the grading. This would allow our teachers to just focus on the in-person learners. In addition to remote learning, these companies offer credit recovery, test prep, homebound options, as well as options if we can't find teachers. We will also be making plans to improve instruction if we are forced to shut down for a period of time.

**State Testing**

The Federal Government announced that states will still have to test, but states are allowed to apply for a waiver that allows for shorter tests and lessens the accountability on schools. ISBE is working with the Federal Government to determine what changes they can make to the testing and accountability piece. So far they have announced.

- No PSAT for 9th and 10th Graders
- SAT for 11th graders will not include the Essay portion.
- IAR eliminated the full length field test for ELA for those schools that were chosen to give this. Pana Jr. High was chosen to give this. All schools will now give the shorter 20 minute field test. So as of now are 3rd grade through 8th grade students will be taking 3 Math and 3 ELA assessments for IAR.
- No word on any changes for the Science Assessment.

**Digital Equity Grant**

We have ordered the following chromebooks using the Digital Equity Grant. This is part of the CARES I Act, but it was a separate grant for technology only.

- 100 for Kindergarten
- 30 for 5th grade

- 150 for 1:1 program (50 still have to be paid for by CARES ACT II or district)